

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 18, with the following paragraph:

The horizontal lock door 74a includes a release wall section 74f suspended from the other end thereof as releasing means for releasing the engaged lock condition with the pusher piece 73. From both sides of the lower end of the release wall section 74f, a door open arm 74g and a door close arm 74h are disposed so as to project in the horizontal direction. The door open arm 74g is positioned directly below the first side wall section 44 of the mount case body 41. The position corresponds to the rotating direction of the release arm 72d. When the release arm 72d is rotated, the door close-open arm 74g is pushed by the release arm 72d, and the horizontal lock door 74a is opened and the engagement between the horizontal lock door 74a and the pusher piece 73 is released. The door close arm 74h is positioned directly below the second side wall section 45 of the mount case body 41, and is drawn upward by the door close coil spring 74i to thereby maintain the horizontal lock door 74a to be horizontal.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 39, line 11, with the following paragraph:

The one end side member 86 is formed with a vertically extending blade plate lowering and elevating slit 86a in a range from the upper end to the lower end thereof. The tail portion 82b of the blade holder 82 contacting one end side member 86 serves such that the guide projection 82c projects into the blade plate lowering and elevating slit 86a. The tail portion 82b closely contacting the staple striking blade plate 83 has an upper end, as upper dead center 86e, to which the guide projection reaches in the blade plate elevating slit 86a and a lower end, as lower dead center 86f, to which the guide projection 82c reaches. The blade holder 82 is vertically movable in the range of the upper and lower dead centers, and the staple striking blade plate 83 is also movable in this range.

Please REPLACE the paragraphs beginning at page 7, line 2 and ending at page 8 line 5 with the following paragraphs:

The first invention provides a stapler including a horizontal base, an operation handle, a staple striking blade plate, and a staple mount magazine to which a connected staple assembly

composed of a number of connected staples or a connected staple assembly cassette is mounted, the horizontal base, the operation handle and the staple mount magazine being coupled by means of a pivot shaft member.

wherein the The pivot shaft member includes an operation shaft member and a mount shaft portion, in which the operation shaft member connects the horizontal base and the operation handle elastically to be rotatable, and the mount shaft member connects the horizontal base and the staple mount magazine.

the The staple mount magazine has a magazine upper dead center so as to be rotatable in a range below the magazine upper dead center through the mount shaft portion,

the staple mount magazineand is provided with a staple striking blade plate vertical slit having slit upper and lower dead centers, and,

said The staple striking blade plate has an upper portion connected to the operation handle and is disposed between the operation handle and the horizontal base, the The staple striking blade plate being is vertically movable in the staple striking blade plate vertical slit in association with an operation of the operation handle, and when the operation handle is elastically pushed downward, the lower end of the staple striking blade plate lowers in the staple striking blade plate vertical slit of the staple mount magazine, and the staple striking blade plate has a vertical dimension reaching the horizontal base surface.

Please REPLACE the paragraphs beginning at page 10, line 4 and ending at page 12 line 3 with the following paragraphs:

The third invention provides a stapler including a horizontal base, an operation handle, a staple striking blade plate, and a staple mount magazine with which is mounted a connected staple assembly cassette having a case body and a connected staple assembly composed of a number of staples disposed in the case body, the horizontal base, the operation handle and the staple mount magazine being coupled by means of pivot shaft member.

wherein the The staple striking blade plate has an upper portion connected to the operation handle and is disposed between the operation handle and the horizontal base, the staple striking blade plate being vertically movable in association with an operation of the operation handle, and the staple striking blade plate has a vertical width such that when the

operation handle is pushed down in a direction of the horizontal base, a lower end thereof reaches the horizontal base surface<sub>12</sub>.

the The staple mount magazine has a mount case, a feed mechanism and a staple lowering slit, the mount case serving to vertically hold the connected staple assembly of a number of staples each having substantially U-shape having a right angled corner, having a structure in which both lower end of the bent staple is directed to the horizontal base, and having one end side and another end side so as to be mounted in a range from a front end to a rear end of the staple<sub>12</sub>.

the The one end side is mounted to the rear end side of the connected staple assembly, and the other end side is mounted to the front end portion of the connected staple assembly and provided with the staple lowering slit as a blade plate passage<sub>12</sub>.

the The staple lowering slit is formed with an opening so as to guide, in the lowering direction, the staple which is separated from the front end of the connected staple assembly and lowered in the slit<sub>12</sub>.

the The feed mechanism includes a mount sensor, a pusher piece, a pusher piece engaging member, and a pusher piece traction spring, the mount sensor having a structure being displaced and deformed by sensing presence or absence of the connected staple assembly<sub>12</sub>.

the The pusher piece engaging member engages the pusher piece and releases the engagement under the condition of the displacement and deformation of the mount sensor<sub>12</sub>.

the The pusher traction spring elastically pulls the pusher piece in the other end side in the staple mount magazine, and.

the The pusher piece moves from the one end side toward the other end side in the staple mount magazine as an advance passage, the pusher piece is subjected to elastic traction force in the other end side direction by the pusher piece traction spring and advances in the advance passage when the engagement is released, and the rear end of the connected staple assembly is formed to be elastically pressed in the other end direction of the mount case.

Please REPLACE the paragraphs beginning at page 13, line 17 and ending at page 18 line 15 with the following paragraphs:

The sixth invention provides a stapler including a horizontal base, an operation handle, a staple striking blade plate, and a staple mount magazine with which is mounted a connected staple assembly cassette having a case body and a connected staple assembly composed of a number of staples disposed in the case body, the horizontal base, the operation handle and the staple mount magazine being coupled by means of pivot shaft member<sub>z</sub>.

wherein the The staple mount magazine is provided with a staple mount case, a staple feed mechanism and a staple lowering slit, the staple mount case has a structure in which the connected staple assembly cassette, in which a number of connected staples each having a U-shape bent in a right angle at a corner portion are accommodated, is mounted, the staples are held in the vertical direction and both the lower ends of the staple are directed toward the horizontal base<sub>z</sub>.

the The staple feed mechanism has a mechanism successively elastically feeding the staple positioned on the front end side of the connected staple assembly in the connected staple assembly cassette into the staple lowering slit path along which the staple striking blade plate is vertically moved<sub>z</sub>.

the The staple lowering slit path is opened to the staple striking blade plate moving path so as to guide downward the staple which is separated and lowered from the front end of the connected staple assembly<sub>z</sub>.

the The staple striking blade plate is connected at an upper end thereof to the operation handle to be rotatable and disposed between the operation handle and the horizontal base in a suspended state to be vertically movable in association with the movement of the operation handle, and when the operation handle is depressed toward the horizontal base, the operation handle has a vertical dimension such that when the operation handle is lowered, the lower end thereof reaches the horizontal base surface, the operation handle having large and small thickness portions<sub>z</sub>.

the The other surface side of the staple striking blade plate forms a perpendicular plane to the lower end thereof, and one surface side forms an inclination surface inclining at the lower end portion of at least the large thickness portion and contacts the connected staple assembly in the staple lowering slit<sub>z</sub>.

the The inclination surface formed on one surface side contacts, in the staple lowering slit, the second staple adjacent to the first staple positioned at the front end of the connected

staple assembly in the connected staple assembly cassette to be mounted to the staple mount magazine, the staple after the first staple (one following first one staple) advances or retires in the staple lowering slit with a limit corresponding to the thickness of the plate of the staple striking blade plate.

a-A staple sensor and an advance movement block mechanism are provided parallelly to the staple lowering slit, and the staple sensor has a mechanism which is displaced and deformed with presence or absence of the first staple separated from the front end of the connected staple assembly in the staple lowering slit.

the The advance movement block mechanism is provided with a movable member which shields the advancing path of the second staple during the presence of the first staple in the staple lowering slit in accordance with the displacement and deformation of the staple sensor, projects between the small thickness portions of the staple striking blade plate, and blocks the advance movement of the connected staple assembly after the second staple.

The seventh invention provides a stapler including a horizontal base, an operation handle, a staple striking blade plate, and a staple mount magazine with which is mounted a connected staple assembly cassette having a case body and a connected staple assembly composed of a number of staples disposed in the case body, the horizontal base, the operation handle and the staple mount magazine being coupled by means of pivot shaft member,

wherein The staple mount magazine is provided with a staple mount case and a staple lowering slit, the staple mount case having a structure in which the connected staple assembly cassette is mounted, and the connected staple assembly being accommodated in the case body of the connected staple assembly cassette.

the The connected staple assembly cassette is provided with a structure having feed means for successively elastically feeding the connected staple assembly in the front end direction thereof and successively feeding the staple positioned on the front end side of the connected staple assembly in the connected staple assembly cassette into the staple lowering slit along which the staple striking blade plate is moved.

the The staple lowering slit is opened to the lower end of the staple striking blade plate so as to guide downward the staple which is separated and lowered from the front end of the connected staple assembly.

the The staple striking blade plate is connected at an upper end thereof to the operation handle to be rotatable and disposed between the operation handle and the horizontal base in a suspended state to be vertically movable in association with the movement of the operation handle, and when the operation handle is depressed toward the horizontal base, the operation handle has a vertical width such that when the operation handle is lowered, the lower end thereof reaches the horizontal base surface, the operation handle having large and small thickness portions<sub>z</sub>.

the The other surface side of the staple striking blade plate forms a perpendicular plane to the lower end thereof, and one surface side forms an inclination surface inclining at the lower end portion of at least the large thickness portion and contacts the connected staple assembly in the staple lowering slit<sub>z</sub>.

the The inclination surface formed on one surface side contacts, in the staple lowering slit, the second staple adjacent to the first staple positioned at the front end of the connected staple assembly in the connected staple assembly cassette to be mounted to the staple mount magazine, the staple after the second one advances, stops or retires in the staple lowering slit with a limit corresponding to the thickness of the plate of the staple striking blade plate<sub>z</sub>.

a-A staple sensor and an advance movement block mechanism are provided parallelly in parallel to the staple lowering slit, and the staple sensor has a mechanism which is displaced and deformed in accordance with presence or absence of the first staple separated from the front end of the connected staple assembly in the staple lowering slit<sub>z</sub>.

the The advance movement block mechanism is provided with a movable member which shields the advance path of the second staple during the presence of the first staple in the staple lowering slit in accordance with the displacement and deformation of the staple sensor, projects between the small thickness portions of the staple striking blade plate, and blocks the advance movement of the connected staple assembly after the second staple.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 19 and ending at page 20 line 18 with the following paragraph:

The eighth invention is, in addition to the structure of the sixth invention or seventh invention, characterized in that the staple lowering slit has an opening surrounded by a perpendicular stationary wall section and a plate spring wall sensor as the staple sensor; the

The plate spring wall sensor has a lower end elastically contacting a lower portion of the perpendicular stationary wall section; a A lower portion of the plate spring wall sensor serves to open the staple lowering slit while describing an arc at a distance corresponding to at least a thickness of the staple; the The advance movement blocking mechanism is provided with a vertically movable member which is provided to a back surface of the plate spring wall sensor and follows up rotation of the plate spring wall sensor; It has a lower end which is separated from the perpendicular stationary wall section upon the rotation of the plate spring wall sensor; The advance movement blocking mechanism opens the staple lowering slit and rises upward at the rear surface of the plate spring wall sensor in accordance with the opening movement of the staple lowering slit; and the The vertically movable member is provided with a movable member as a vertically movable projection which projects at a corner portion at which the inclination surface of the lower end portion of the staple striking blade plate contacts the second staple, and blocks the advance movement of the connected staple assembly after the second staple in the advance passage of the second staple.

Please REPLACE the paragraphs beginning at page 20, line 25 and ending at page 22 line 14 with the following paragraphs:

The ninth invention provides connected staple assembly cassette, wherein two horizontal plate wall bodies are vertically provided, each of which has a length longer than a length between a front end of a connected staple assembly formed by connecting a number of staples each having substantially U-shape with an corner portion bent at a right angle and rear end thereof with a width of clamping both leg portions of the staple;.

a A case body is formed so as to be surrounded in three directions by a both wall sections of the horizontal plate wall bodies and a top plate disposed on upper ends of both the wall sections so as to have a length more than a length between the front end of the connected staple assembly and the rear end thereof;.

a A number of reverse movement block irregular portion are formed in form of connected beads to a front end of a wall section or top plate to a rear end thereof at an inner periphery of the case body, and the connected staple assembly is mounted to a front end side of the inner periphery of the case body;.

a-A stop edge projecting on the inner periphery side of the case body is provided for at least either one of the wall section or top plate at the front end of the case body.

the The staple striking blade plate abutting against a first staple of the front end of at least the connected staple assembly opens an exposed portion without covering the upper portion of the first staple with the top plate by an amount corresponding to a thickness thereof.

a-A reverse movement stop feeder for blocking a reverse movement of the connected staple assembly is mounted in the case body at the rear end of the connected staple assembly and

the The reverse movement stop feeder is provided with a pawl projection for stopping the reverse movement, the pawl projection has an elastic portion slidable in the advancing direction and preventing the advancing movement in the reverse direction, the elastic portion is elastically engaged with the reverse movement blocking irregular portion, and the pawl projection advances from the rear end side to the front end side in the base body in accordance with reduction of the staples of the connected staple assembly.